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PENTAGON SEEKING MORE IN RESEARCH

Proposes to Spend \$10 Billion Over the Next Five Years for Defensive Weapons

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WASHINGTON, April 11 — The Defense Department proposes to spend \$10 billion over the next five years for research on defensive arms, including lasers, that would be intended to defeat nuclear missile attacks, according to a confidential Pentagon memorandum.

However, recent action in Congress that would reduce proposed increases in military outlays could also affect expenditures on research.

The research plans would be part of a \$167 billion program that is a blueprint of arms for the future. Projected to run from 1984 through 1988 if approved by Congress, it includes plans for research on chemical weapons and defenses, missiles, military uses of space, submarine and antisubmarine technology, advanced aircraft, communication and intelligence systems.

Of the \$10 billion for defenses against missiles, the Defense Department plans to allocate \$8 billion to research into an anti-missile system based on the ground. That would appear to be within limits of the Antiballistic Missile Treaty of 1972 with the Soviet Union.

In addition, \$2 billion is planned for research into lasers, particle beams and other weapons using directed energy. A debate has already erupted between officials of the Reagan Administration and its critics over whether such research would violate the treaty's prohibition of missile defenses based in space.

Must Get Approval Yearly

The military research budget must be approved by Congress each year. The Pentagon has proposed \$29.6 billion for the fiscal year 1984, which starts this Oct. 1. Last week the Senate Budget Committee voted to reduce the growth of military spending to 5 percent from 10 percent next year.

The sums planned by the Defense Department were set in January, well before President Reagan said in a speech March 23 that "I am directing a comprehensive and intensive effort" to look into systems to intercept and destroy missiles before they reach the United States.

Moreover, funds in the five-year program were based on directives in the Pentagon's Defense Guidance, a strategic plan for the same period that Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger signed March 1.

Defense Guidance instructed the services to continue research on defenses against missiles and to "expand the technology base toward identifying new concepts and applications that could yield marked increases in the capabilities of directed-energy weapons."

Beyond defenses against missiles, the Reagan Administration has emphasized developing other new weapons, both in the amount of money it seeks and in proportion to the rest of the military budget. Research took 8 percent of the last Carter military budget and the same in the first Reagan budget, but that grew to 9.1 percent in the current fiscal year.

In the new plan, detailed in the research portion of the Defense Department's Five-Year Defense Plan, research is set at 10.8 percent for the 1984 budget now before Congress. After that, research is projected to level off at slightly more than 10 percent.

The directive suggested that the Administration planned a system to protect MX missiles, to continue "a ballistic-missile-defense research and development program capable of insuring continued survivability of the selected MX basing mode."

Beyond those measures in missile defense, the five-year research program outlines these projects:

Chemical warfare: \$1.6 billion is planned, primarily for medical defenses against chemical attacks but also for new chemical arms in which lethal elements are separate in the projectile and mixed only after it has been fired toward a target.

Missiles: Development costs for the new Trident II missile to be launched from submarines are projected at \$9.5 billion for five years, with a peak of \$2.4 billion in 1986. The missile is to be operational in 1989. Some \$362 million more is planned to complete testing of the Trident I missile being deployed now. Development costs for the MX land-based missile were projected to peak at \$3.4 billion in 1984, then drop swiftly to \$55.3 million in 1988.

Space: \$6.3 billion is planned for military uses of space, excluding communication, navigation, and weather satellites. The program would include \$860 million for the space shuttle, \$516 for support for space launchings, \$515 million for space defense systems and \$529 million for surveillance technology.

Submarines: American naval officers have asserted that the United States has a 10-year lead over the Soviet Union in submarine technology. The Defense Department plans to spend \$1.2 billion to improve United States submarines and \$1.6 billion more in antisubmarine technology to detect and, if a conflict breaks out, to destroy enemy submarines.

Aircraft: Research funds for the Stealth bomber intended to deceive enemy sensors are hidden in the development budget but seem to total \$6.3 billion for five years. Such bombers are due to become operational in 1991.

Communications and intelligence: In this category, the research program reports \$2.7 billion being spent this year with \$3.6 billion requested for next year and \$4.2 billion projected for 1985. It would level off above \$3 billion a year after that. The reconnaissance program, which operates intelligence gathering satellites, is projected to spend \$3.4 billion over the five years, rising from \$176 million this year to \$736 million in 1988.